



Takunda

care

US Agency for International Development

Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)



Quarterly Program Performance Report

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical and Extension Services
BDS	Business Development Services
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
CAP	Community Action Plan
CHC	Community Health Clubs
CLA	Collaboration Learning and Adaptation
CSB+	Corn-Soy Blend plus
CV	Community Vision
DFNC	District Food and Nutrition Committee
DWSSC	District Water and Sanitation Sub-Committee
EHT	Environmental Health Technicians
ENSURE	Enhancing Nutrition Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise
FDP	Food Distribution Point
FY	Fiscal Year
IDEAL	Implementer-Led Design, Evidence, Analysis, and Learning
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IPC	Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Phase Classification
IPTT	Indicator Performance Tracking Table
LEAP III	USAID Learning, Evaluation, and Analysis (LEAP III) Project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMCA	Make Me Change Agent
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Welfare
MT	Metric Tonnes
PERSUAP	Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan
PRO-WASH	Practices, Research and Operations in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
PYD	Positive Youth Development
QUIPS	Qualitative Inquiry Planning Sheets
R&I	Refine and Implement
RFSA	Resilience and Food Security Activity
SBC	Social Behavior Change
SFP	Supplementary Feeding Program
SCALE	Strengthening Capacity in Agriculture Livelihoods and Environment
STREAM	System for Tracking Evidence for Adaptive Management
TOT	Training of Trainer
TVET	Technical and Vocational Training
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
US	United States
VHW	Village Health Workers
VSLA	Village Savings and Loans Associations
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WBA	Well-Being Analysis
WFNSC	Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committee
WWSSC	Ward Water and Sanitation Sub-Committee
WPUC	Water Point User Committee
WQAP	Water Quality Assurance Plan

1 INTRODUCTION AND OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Takunda is a five-year Resilience Food Security Activity (RFSa) funded by USAID/BHA and implemented by a consortium¹ primed by CARE in Zimbabwe. The program started in October 2020 and has begun the implementation phase while concluding the Refine and Implement (R&I) phase. Takunda aims to achieve sustainable, equitable, and resilient food, nutrition, and income security. The RFSa takes place in the Buhera and Mutare Districts (in Manicaland Province), as well as the Chivi and Zaka Districts (in Masvingo Province).

1.1 Operational Context

The period under review was influenced by the continued prevalence of COVID-19, an increase in livestock diseases, continued food insecurity, and a deteriorating economic environment characterized by high commodity prices. The effects of COVID-19 continue to erode livelihoods and incomes, which subsequently reduce access to food and health services.² Takunda staff continued to uphold COVID-19 compliance procedures to protect themselves, and participants, from contracting and passing the disease.

The annual rate of inflation rose to 60.7% in December 2021 from 54.7% in October 2021,³ triggering a rise in the prices of basic goods and services and reduced their affordability. Political campaigns and meetings have also started in most districts in preparation for the 2023 harmonized elections. The country and operational districts continued to experience a stable political climate with no reported political interference in program activities.

Between November and mid-December 2021, Zimbabwe experienced prolonged dryness and above-average temperatures resulting in a delayed start to the agricultural cropping season nationwide.⁴ Below-average rainfall in December 2021 is likely to reduce the cropped area targets. The reporting period coincided with the peak of lean season that resulted in an increase of food insecurity among vulnerable rural households.⁵ The Takunda program implementation areas experienced stressed (IPC Phase 2) and crisis level food insecurity (IPC Phase 3) for the reporting period, requiring humanitarian assistance.⁶ In Takunda's program districts, Theileriosis (known locally as "January Disease") led to widespread cattle deaths. The unavailability of livestock veterinary and drug supplies exacerbated the Theileriosis challenge.

2 ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION

Quarter 1 of FY22 marked a re-entry into communities following the June-September lockdown. During this quarter, program staff worked on the Refine and Implement (R&I) year activities, finalizing formative studies, ongoing Community Visioning (CV) activities and well-being analysis (WBA). The completed functionality studies include: Gender Analysis; Care Group/WASH; and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA) functionality studies. In addition, Agriculture Value Chain, Off-Farm Opportunities, Capacities, Financial and Labor Market Assessment, COVID-19 Assessment, and Social Behavior Change (SBC) studies successfully. Takunda implemented Care Groups, VSLA, and Resilience

¹ The consortium members include Bulawayo Project Center, Environment Africa, FHI360, International Youth Foundation and Nutrition Action Zimbabwe

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-food-security-outlook-update-december-2021>

³ <https://tradingeconomics.com/zimbabwe/inflation-cpi>

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-food-security-outlook-update-december-2021>

⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-food-security-outlook-update-december-2021>

⁶ <https://reliefweb.int/report/zimbabwe/zimbabwe-food-security-outlook-update-december-2021>

Design trainings. Staff also rolled out demonstration sites and WASH interventions to project participants across all of Takunda's operational districts.

Overall, 44 of the 83 Takunda workplan activities are on track, while 39 are delayed in implementation. The delays are mainly a result of the COVID-19 lockdowns experienced in the previous quarters. The RFSA initiated targeted strategies, such as prioritizing training modules for specific periods/seasons to catch up in an efficient manner as opposed to training participants on all modules. The following subsections, contain details of activities implemented under the following program areas agricultural and livelihoods, nutrition and health, resilience, and commodities, with the IPTT included in Annex 1. Table 1 show Takunda progress towards reaching 301,631 beneficiaries. The program is 32.4% towards the FY22 target of unique beneficiaries.

Table 1. FY22Q1 Award Level Beneficiaries reach

Item	Value
LOA Target value	301,631
LOA Actual value	30,752
Reporting period target value	60642
Reporting period actual value	30,752

Reasons for underachievement: The underachievement is because COVID 19 delayed the onset of VSLA training in the quarter with training done in November 2021 only. The program targeted to reach 56642 beneficiaries under SFP in the first quarter but only reached 18296. The household census, which is still ongoing has so far indicated a lower-than-expected number of targeted participants in operational areas resulting in failure to meet the quarter target.

2.1 Agriculture and livelihoods

Village Savings and Loans Associations

Takunda conducted VSLA verifications and validation on 1,024 groups (Mutare-488, Buhera-167, Zaka-150, and Chivi-219) in collaboration with AGRITEX, the Ministry of Women Affairs, and Cluster Facilitators established under ENSURE and other programs. The exercise aimed at understanding the sustainability of established VSLA in the preceding programs as well as learning the factors that ensured that sustainability as well as the factors that impacted negatively on the groups that dissolved. It was also done to inform Takunda on the spread of VSLA to determine entry points and configure training modalities. The VSLA groups demonstrated varied record keeping formats and membership configurations due to their self-selecting nature. Implications from this learning has seen Takunda widening the group sizes to conform with global standards while also learning on simplified community-led record-keeping processes that strikes a balance between useful quality information yet simple to manage. Following a two-day training of trainers (TOT) for four VSLA Officers (2 Males, 2 Females) on VSLA methodology, Field training commenced where 116 new groups were formed, with 835 clients (174 Males, 661 Females) across all Takunda districts and the trained groups have started savings. The training modules include, members selection, groups and leadership, constitution development, fund development and record-keeping with cross cutting thematic areas of gender and sustainability integrated in the training. Takunda held meetings with different private sector market system actors to appraise them of the program and identify potential areas of future collaboration. Takunda noted that Eco-farmer provides e e-extension to smallholder farmers. Takunda noted that ARDA seeds sell and offtake cowpeas and sorghum while Afrideli concerntrates on Bambara nuts. For animal husbandry, the program identified that Coopers specializes in animal health and management and Molus Meats is an offtaker of indigenous chickens, goats, and cattle.

Technical and Vocational Education Training Center and Business Development Services Mapping

Takunda conducted a Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) center and Business Development Services (BDS) Mapping in November 2021. The Mapping aimed to map the functionality, capacity, and viability of TVETs and BDS in the four districts to inform and guide Takunda strategies skills and business development activities. For TVET, a total of 46 respondents (19 Males, 27 Females) participated in interviews. Out of eleven TVETs identified, four are located in Takunda districts and the remaining outside Takunda operational areas and tend to be far from communities. Takunda is planning to establish mobile TVET hubs for accessibility and reduce travel distances for participants and will work with TVET centres to standardize, certify and monitor the mobile TVET mobile training. Takunda will engage the TVE also reviewed the current curriculums used by TVETs to identify areas of improvements. Takunda interviewed 45 respondents (23 Males, 22 Females) for the BDS mapping drawn from public, private and civil society actors. Preliminary findings showed the majority of BDS are in urban centres, and coordination between BDS providers is lacking.

2.2 Nutrition and Health

Care Group

Takunda finalized the Care Group, Water Point, Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committee (WFNSC), and Ward Water and Sanitation Sub-committee (WWSSC) Inventory Studies and submitted corresponding reports to BHA. The findings will inform and guide Takunda Care group trainings and how to better engage with local organizations and systems. Twenty-seven program staff (9 Males, 18 Females) received a three-day Care Group approach training in preparation for the roll-out of Care Groups. The training included components of gender, WASH among others. A one-day sensitization meeting took place for the District Food and Nutrition Security Committee (DFNSC) in each district, while 18 ward level meetings were conducted to sensitize the participants (all sector ministry staff representatives (agriculture, health, local government, youth, women affairs) on the Care Group approach. Takunda registered 388 Neighbor Women Groups (with 4470 participants), 307 Elderly Women Groups (with 4007 participants) and 264 Men's Fora Groups (with 2336 participants). The program trained 169 leaders (36 Males, 133 Females) out of targeted 784 leaders (264 Males, 695 Females) on the Care Group approach. A total of 44 Village Health Workers (VHWs) were also trained on the Care Group approach and this will be continued in FY22 Q2.

Wash

Takunda trained 27 staff (9 Males, 18 Females) on the Community Health Club (CHC) approach. The two-day training built staff capacity in participatory health and hygiene education topics. The activity is going to promote personal hygiene, water sources, drinking water, germ theory, handwashing, sanitation ladder, and sanitation stories. Afterwards, a one-day meeting to sensitize the District Water and Sanitation Sub-Committee (DWSSC) on CHC took place in each district. Takunda registered 109 CHCs with 2576 participants (649 Males, 1927 Females) in Zaka.

2.2.1 Commodities and Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP)

Takunda received 788.592 MT of CSB+ and 120.013 MT of vegetable oil as commodity balances from the first Call Forward. Heavy rains faced in transit from Durban to Zimbabwe, and traffic delays at Beitbridge port of entry into Zimbabwe, resulted in wet bags of CSB+. Takunda has undertaken reconstitutions for 2.870 MT of CSB+ and is awaiting certification by Environmental Health Technicians for disposal. The Activity will request donor approval once a condemnation certificate is in place. Takunda, with BHA approval loaned 60 MT of CSB+ and 30 MT of Vegetable to CNFA to mitigate delays in the arrival of their call forward. Takunda distributed 242.577 MT of CSB+ and 43.734 MT of vegetable oil in bi-monthly distribution cycles in October and December 2021 to 18,296 pregnant or lactating women

and children under two. This reflects a 35.6% achievement when compared to the target (51,352). The underachievement is because the household census and profiling, which act as precursors to SFP is still ongoing and once completed the number of beneficiaries is projected to increase. Takunda also anticipates that once mop registrations, household census and profiling is concluded, the target will not be reached due to lower-than-expected numbers in the target groups within the Takunda operational areas. A photo gallery that includes the SFP process can be found in Annex 6. The Ministry of Health and Child Care (MOHCC), with Village Health Workers (VHWs) working with Takunda staff, conducted screening for acute malnutrition using Middle Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) for children 6–23 months during SFP registrations and distributions. A total of 702 children under two (358 Males, 344 Females) participated in MUAC screening; 30 (11 Males, 19 Females) were found to have acute malnutrition. Takunda referred all the children with acute malnutrition to the nearest health facility for treatment. Takunda and MOHCC also conducted cooking demonstrations during all SFP distributions.

Takunda staff spent time developing and updating data collection tools for all monitoring indicators. The Activity trained eight commodity distribution monitors (4 Males, 4 Females) on the STREAM⁷ commodity distribution module⁸ before SFP distributions. The program sensitized SFP beneficiaries on usage of the help desk and suggestion boxes across the districts. The program built the capacity of those in Mutare and Buhera on the usage of the Deloitte and Touché toll-free platform for anonymous tip-offs and complaints reporting. The commodity distribution teams conducted two successful distribution cycles during the quarter.

Takunda received feedback and/or complaints submissions from 1304 participants (75% Exclusion errors and 25% Inclusion errors). Takunda staff addressed 53% of these claims immediately. The inclusion and exclusion errors owed to incorrect date of births, pregnancy and lactating status of beneficiaries, and other transcription errors. The unresolved complaints will be addressed before the next distribution cycle in FY22 Q2. Takunda drafted the Complaints and Feedback mechanisms manual which is currently under internal review. However, the community is appreciative of the food rations as they now form an important component of daily diet for the targeted participants.

During the reporting period, Takunda facilitated a Well-Being Analysis (WBA) process covering 334 clusters to date (Annex 2). Following WBA, the activity conducted a census on 307 clusters, cumulatively reaching 65,669 households against a target of 100,237 (66% achievement). Takunda will continue to adapt amid COVID-19 related restrictions, which continued to slow progress as the census activity requires COVID-19 cautious in-person gathering of participants (e.g., clustering participants in smaller groups and staggering meeting times).

2.3 Resilience Designs and Environmental Compliance

Takunda conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) for 22 (12 Males, 10 Females) program staff on the Resilience Design approach in Smallholder Farming Systems Approach from 4-15 October 2021, with

⁷ The System for Tracking Results and Evidence for Adaptive Management (STREAM) is the Takunda adopted MIS system. The system is a web based (On-line) relational database management system that Takunda is using for effective in managing of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning data. The database is a modular system with several customizable modules such as: Administration (user and system management), Enrolment (enrolling new participants), Survey (designing of data collection tools for surveys and censuses), Group Management (managing participant groups), Event Management (managing trainings and other events), Commodity and Distributions (incl.s CTP), Report (IPTT and collations)

⁸ A collection of instructions, declarations, statements, and procedures for a specific unit in the MIS (e.g enrolment, distribution e.t.c

technical support from SCALE. Details of the Resilience Design Approach can be found at the link below.⁹ The Takunda program trained a total of 191 farmers (82 Males, 109 Females) distributed across Takunda districts with 22 farmers (12 Males, 10 Females) hosting the Resilience Design demonstration plots with support from local agricultural extension officers. Farmers implementing Resilience Design faced some challenges, including delayed onset of the rainy season and dry spells, which affected the establishment and performance of their crops. A photo gallery that includes the training and rollout is presented in Annex 6. During the reporting period, Takunda also completed field data collection for the Scoping Statement for 16 proposed Weir Dams (four in each district) to assess environmental issues at proposed sites (See Table 2).

3 INTEGRATION AND CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

3.1 Progress with R&I and Start-Up Studies

Table 1 shows the progress with R&I and start-up studies.

Table 2. Progress with R&I and Priority Start-Up Studies

PRIORITY STUDY	STATUS AT END OF DECEMBER 2021
Initial Environmental Examination, Water Quality Assurance Plan (WQAP), and Fumigation Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use Action Plan (PERSUAP)	Field data collection for the scoping statement at 16 proposed Weir Dams (four in each district) took place to assess site environmental issues. 38 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) involving 406 community members (201 Males, 205 Females) occurred. In addition, 31 key informants participated in interviews, and Sun Mountain drafted the Scoping Statement in December 31, 2021, and submitted it to Takunda at the beginning of January 2022.
Gender Analysis	Completed. Reports shared with BHA on December 17, 2021. The activity started drafting culmination summary findings and proposed program refinements based on the learnings from the studies
Off-Farm Opportunities, Capacities, Financial and Labor Market Assessment	
SBC Formative Research Study	
Agricultural Value Chain Analysis	
COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessment	
CV Culmination Report	
VSLA Functionality Report	
Care Group, Water Point, Ward Food and Nutrition Security Committee (WFNSC), and Ward Water and Sanitation Sub-committee (WWSSC) Inventory Report	

3.2 Community Visioning

Takunda has cumulatively facilitated the development of 154 Community Action Plans (CAPs) across the four districts against a target of 161 (Annex 2). During the CV process, Takunda disaggregated participants into different population subgroups by sex and age to collectively and continually identify opportunities and context-specific CAPs they can implement on their own as well as in collaboration with other external stakeholders. Takunda compiled a CV Culmination Report and submitted this to BHA during this quarter. In addition, Takunda is compiling a Community Visioning Learning Report to

⁹ <https://www.fsnnetwork.org/resource/permagarden-manuel-technique>

document lessons learnt about the CV process. This report will be submitted separately to BHA. The CAPs and CV culmination report demonstrated that action plans aligned to Takunda outcomes. The action plans, in order of importance across the four targeted districts, include:

- (i) Livestock production with poultry and goats prioritized by women while males prioritized cattle and goats prioritized
- (ii) Water provision for multi-purpose use mentioned by adult males and females. Additionally, borehole drilling and rehabilitation, weirs construction and rehabilitation, and water harvesting techniques emerged as crucial action plans to address water shortages
- (iii) Income Generating Activities mentioned mainly by young females and males
- (iv) Vocational skills training by young people. Young females indicated events management, cosmetology, and catering while young males preferred computer skills, welding, motor mechanic, and carpentry
- (v) Field crops such as millet, sorghum, and groundnuts were mentioned mostly by females aged 36 to 49 years of age
- (vi) Village Savings and Lending Associations (VSLAs) were mentioned by females aged 20 to 49 years of age. For a photo gallery that includes the CV process, see Annex 6.

3.3 Gender, Youth and Social Dynamics

Takunda conducted a joint validation workshop for Gender Analysis, Agriculture Value Chain and Off-Farm Opportunities, Capacities, Financial and Labor Market Assessment from 25-28 October 2021. The workshop included 91 district based government and private sector officials (42 Males, 49 Females) in attendance across the four districts. The meetings aimed to provide feedback to key stakeholders, including the Food and Nutrition Security Committees, on preliminary study findings, as well as initiate discussions on the Activity Strategies and Action Plans. Takunda incorporated the feedback and insights from the workshop into the final study reports. During the reporting period, Takunda also developed a draft Gender Strategy and Action plan informed by the findings of the Gender Analysis and feedback from the joint validation workshop. Internal reviews of the strategy and action plan are still in progress. Given that participants from apostolic sects tend not to fully participate in many community gatherings, trainings and development activities, a went further to develop a specific strategy for the engagement of the apostolic sect. Takunda collaborated with various government officials in preparations and running campaigns on 16 Days of Activism Against GBV in Mutare and Zaka districts under the theme 'End Violence Against Women and Girls. No to Child Marriage!'. The campaigns were meant to enhance community awareness and increase action against gender based violence amongs communities, government and other stakeholders. The event took place in Zaka Ward 28 and Mutare Ward 16 on the 30th of November and 10th of December 2021, respectively. A total of 166 women, 80 men, 64 boys, and 86 girls participated in the two districts.

Takunda conducted a two-day staff orientation on the foundations of Positive Youth Development (PYD) and I:Serve. The orientation workshops aimed at equipping staff with technical skills on youth engagement, participation, and agency for youth activity planning and their integration into implementation strategies. A total of 28 Takunda staff members (10 Males, 18 Females) attended the PYD training while 23 Takunda staff members (6 Males, 17 Females) attended the I:Serve training. The workshops were a follow-on to the virtual introductory PYD training on August 25, 2021. Thereafter, the trainers assessed Takunda Youth interventions using the YPAT (Youth Programming Assessment Tool). The YPAT tool identified areas for improvement in Takunda youth integration. Takunda started the mapping of youth clubs, centres, hubs, corners and spaces in all the districts, which included an assessment of their functionality including organizational capacity, resources, needs and linkages.

3.4 Social Behavior Change

Takunda finalized and submitted the SBC formative Research Report to BHA, and initiated the development of Takunda's SBC Strategy. Takunda conducted an online Make Me a Change Agent (MMCA) Training of Trainers workshop in collaboration with USAID SCALE and PROWASH from 6-10 December 2021. The workshop, attended by 27 participants (9 Males, 18 Females), drew from the expertise of the Takunda Program Management Unit, Purpose Managers, technical specialists, and advisors to train participants on promoting behavior change in their communities. Takunda will schedule additional sessions on basic introduction to SBC theories, approaches, and stages of behavior change. The program have started writing the information, education and communication (IEC) materials for SBC. Participation and feedback proved positive and people acknowledged the information to be useful in helping to increase the adoption of promoted behavior and practices. Takunda conducted a pre and post-test to measure learning and overall achievement was 70% in the pre-test and 88% in the post-test. Each project Purpose Area developed a plan to train their field officers and community facilitators on MMCA. The Takunda SBC Team will follow up to support these trainings as well as integrate sessions into other planned trainings for next quarter.

3.5 Institutional Strengthening and Local Capacity Building

The Agriculture Value Chain Analysis, Off Farm Opportunities, and Capacities, Financial and Labour Market Assessments proved instrumental in strengthening the relationship between local actors and Takunda. The engagement of government and private sector stakeholders during validation workshops created ownership from the outset of the project design and implementation. The sensitization of government stakeholders, Care Group Leaders, Male Advocates and Lead Elderly Women on the Care Group approach was beneficial. Also the sensitization of DWSCC on Community Health Clubs empowered targeted local systems to fully understand their roles and functions effectively after the Takunda program exits.

3.6 Randomized Control Trials Set up.

The impact evaluation planning dialogues amongst IPA, CARE and BHA continued into the quarter. The study timelines show a delay with listing planned for January 2022, and data collection commencing in March 2022. As a result of the delay, IPA reviewed the sample size for the impact evaluation from 200 clusters (125 treatment and 75 control) to 165 clusters (90 treatment and 75 control), releasing 35 clusters for Takunda program implementation. IPA and CARE agreed on streamlining a micro experiment to focus on estimating the impacts of the TVET and Life skills interventions. Discussions on the research design for the micro experiments are ongoing and will be finalized next quarter.

3.7 Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

Takunda collaborated with several key stakeholders and programs during the reporting quarter to ensure appropriate synergies, layering, and sequencing of activities. Takunda continued collaboration with USAID funding mechanisms (Annex 4) (e.g., SCALE, ProWASH, Advancing Nutrition, NASA, and LEAP III) during the reporting quarter. Takunda and USAID staff conducted a joint monitoring visit in October 2021 to Wards 1, 12, 13 and 17 of Chivi; 11, 14, and 19 of Mutare; and 17 and 24 of Zaka Districts, respectively. The USAID staff were monitoring Takunda CV, household profiling, SFP and Resilience Design processes, offering technical guidance, and inspecting SFP commodities in the warehouse. Takunda staff interacted with the different socio-economic groups and government officials while conducting the visit. The CLA Lead participated in two Strategic Learning and Knowledge Working Group meetings, co-hosted by IDEAL, to learn and share knowledge and good practices with USAID-funded RFSA globally. Takunda collaborated with the Ministry of Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Zimbabwe Gender Commission, National AIDs Council and other partners in

commemorating 16 days of activism against gender-based violence in Zaka and Mutare districts. Takunda organized a “look and learn” visit for three farmers (1 Male, 2 Females) from Ward 20 and 21 in Zaka. Subsequently the USAID-funded ENSURE program established a Resilience Design site. Farmers learned the Resilience Design structures at Gosha Zimhatye's plot, characterized by water harvesting structures such as dead level contours, infiltration pits, conservation farming and a nutrition garden. Two Takunda staff (1 Male, 1 Female) are currently participating in an online Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis course to build their skills and capacity.

4 SUSTAINABILITY AND EXIT STRATEGY

Takunda's sustainability approach revolves around community engagement, empowerment, and strengthening local service providers, among other components. Collaborations with both district government and local institutions ensured the smooth implementation of all activities during the reporting quarter. By doing this, Takunda is setting up a solid foundation built on trust with government and local organizations which will be the bedrock of Takunda's sustainability strategy. Takunda will continue to cultivate these collaborations to ensure buy-in and active involvement of these stakeholders, as part of the program's sustainability and exit strategy. The Ministry of Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation mobilized youth to attend CV sessions. Takunda collaborated with staff from the District Development Coordinator's office, Ministries of Agriculture, Women Affairs and Youth during CV sessions, care Group trainings, functionality studies and all activities done during the quarter. Takunda started training Care Group Leaders, Male Advocates and Lead Elderly Women on the Care Group approach. The capacity building of these individuals forms an initial foundation for Takunda sustainability strategy. Ultimately, Takunda will focus on identifying, establishing, strengthening, and working with local service providers who will remain in communities to serve as links between the villages, government, and private extension agents. Over the LOA the project will endeavor to ensure LSPs have sufficient resources, capacity and motivation in addition to linkages to ensure sustained service provision after the project has ended.

5 MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Takunda finalized replacement recruitments for the Finance and Operations Lead, as well as the Grant Accountant. Takunda successfully hosted the USAID Acting Ambassador (Thomas Hastings) and CARE Country Director (Patrick Sikana). The two visited supplementary food rations distributions at Rowa FDP Mutare ward 14 and inspected Takunda's food commodities warehouse in Mutare. The main purpose of the management support visit was to observe the interventions that are already under implementation. The Acting Ambassador appreciated the project participants' feedback, as it illustrated the extent to which the assistance has gone in helping their needs, especially contribution to the wellbeing of their children.

6 LESSONS LEARNED

- Evidence from CV and Takunda priority studies show that young people are marginalized and excluded from most community development projects. The marginalization leads to their voices not being heard at the household and community level. Therefore, Takunda is developing an inclusive and robust youth strategy to ensure inclusive participation of all youths.
- Adolescent participation in community visioning was minimal as they are mainly in school. Takunda will devise strategies to reach in-school adolescents and/or leveraging and working with USAID-DREAMS partners who have an in-school youth programming component.
- Takunda is staggering supplementary feeding distributions in villages to decongest food distribution points in compliance with COVID-19 regulations.

- Extremely poor and chronically vulnerable groups struggled to raise funds to purchase agricultural inputs. Takunda will promote community seed multiplication programs to ensure the availability of seeds.
- Some farmers around the Resilient Design demonstration plots have started to spontaneously adopt the technology. Takunda will train these farmers on good agricultural practices so that they have higher productivity.
- Growth monitoring, screening, and validations at FDPs are attracting high attendance and participation, even by those from the Apostolic sect who normally shun clinics and hospitals.

7 PROGRAM ADAPTATION

Takunda adapted the following during the quarter:

1. Takunda reduced the duration of the Care Group approach training for volunteers by two days to suit the busy schedule of the volunteers during the farming season to increase their participation.
2. Takunda initiated the recruitment of monitoring and evaluation assistants and community visioning facilitators to speed up the household profiling and community visioning processes. The two activities are the foundation of Takunda programming, and their timely completion enables the implementation of other interventions.

8 PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

Table 3. Plans for Quarter Two of Fiscal Year 2022

PLANNED ACTIVITIES	MONTH: 2022
Monitoring 22 resilience design sites, Train 40 Takunda staff on DRR	January – March
Feasibility studies on at least 10 identified weir dam sites to determine their suitability and their Environmental Assessment	January – March
Gender outcome mapping, Staff SAA TOT, Gender Integration Strategy and Action plan	January – March
Community visioning process in 102 clusters (Mutare 30, Buhera 20, Chivi 22, Zaka 30), community feedback meetings and implementation of action plans, staff training for transformation	January – March
VSLA TOT for cluster facilitators; VSLA training for group members; VSLA facilitation model (fee-for-service) pilot; and VSLA only-VSLA plus pilot	January – March
Rollout of the intervention with the communities	February onwards
To understand the different channels through which farmers access agri-inputs	January – March
Registrations, trainings, and meetings	January – March
Purpose 2 staff trained	January – March
Conduct the study on 'the acceptability and affordability of enriched porridges	February
Beneficiary verifications and resolve registration issues, bi-monthly SFP distributions, receipt of second call forward (1,540MT CSB+ and 280MT vegetable oil, and expected receipt at Durban port is 10 March 2021	January – March
Training of help desk teams, assisting with baseline assessment	January – March
TVET mapping report documentation	January – March
Takunda all staff culmination workshop, produce branding and visibility materials	January – March
Development of SBC strategy and materials	January – March
Preparation of culmination summaries and presentations and dry run with Program Cycle Support. Takunda having Culmination workshop on 8 and 9 February 2022	January - February
Disposal of Wet-spoilt CSB+	February

9 ANNEXES

Annex 1. CARE Zimbabwe _Takunda_FY22Q1_IPTT

The IPPTT is attached as a separate document.

Annex 2. Household census progress update (extract from the Takunda STREAM database as of December 25, 2021)

District	Number of wards Reached	Number of Clusters reached	Households from target area	Number of households reached	% Achieved
Buhera	17	74	26801	16846	63
Chivi	21	81	19109	13699	72
Mutare	19	64	26415	17807	67
Zaka	20	88	27912	17346	62
Totals	77	307	100237	65696	66

Annex 3. Community Action Plans

DISTRICT	Y21Q4 Cumulative Community Action Plans developed	Y22Q1 Targeted Community Action Plans	Y22Q1 Community Action Plans Developed	Y22Q1 % Achieved	Cumulative Community Action Plans Developed
Buhera	36	31	31	100	67
Chivi	17	46	46	100	66
Mutare	17	44	37	84.09	54
Zaka	22	40	37	92.5	59
TOTALS	92	161	154	95.65	246

Reasons for underachievement: Mutare and Zaka clusters covered were distant with poor roads and this made it impossible for staff to conduct morning and afternoon sessions. In addition, competing Takunda activities such as studies also saw a reduction in staff for the CV process.

Annex 4. Summary of Areas of Engagement for Takunda with USAID Mechanisms during the quarter

USAID / MECHANISM	BRIEF NOTES ON TAKUNDA ENGAGEMENT	PERIOD OF ENGAGEMENT
NASA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geo-location of project/intention areas-Monitoring of watershed interventions areas (providing historical maps). Natural Resource Management Systems -Vegetative Cover Information systems. Providing an analysis model for the resilience of production systems. For example, adoption and scale-up of resilient designs for water recharge systems and agricultural technologies. As an evaluation model/tool looking at the before and after situation. For example, Takunda proposed water retention structures and catchment management systems. Takunda may also benefit from NASA on retrospective analysis of ENSURE interventions. In terms of seasonality and how the interventions fared through stressful moments. 	Life of Award
SCALE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCALE trained staff to build negotiation, facilitation, and communication skills using the Making Me a Change Agent model. This is because Takunda will engage in a lot of facilitation across all-purpose areas, and hence, a one-off training would help in standardization. Agriculture and natural resources management through training on resilient designs for watershed/landscape, both micro and macro catchments, and technical backstopping during implementation. 	Year 1/2
LEAP III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LEAP III technical support is mostly targeting Agriculture and Livelihoods pillar (Purpose 1). LEAP III provides technical support on financial viability or analysis of Takunda prioritized value chains for on, off, and non-farm. It may be useful to train staff on social and financial analysis of prioritized value chains. Could identify areas of financial analysis for the enriched foods assessments. 	Year 1
Advancing Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support in developing both a market-based model for producing enriched foods, as well as learning focused on promoting consumption of micronutrients in low-income settings. 	Year 1/2
PRO-WASH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training Takunda staff on MMCA. 	Year 1/2
IDEAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hosting the monthly Strategic Learning and Knowledge Working Group for all RFSAAs funded by BHA globally. The Takunda CLA Lead participated in two of these meetings. 	Year 1/2
USAID Local Mission Communication Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two women Takunda staff were trained on storytelling through photography and ethical photography. 	FY22Q1

Annex 5. Takunda Humanitarian Stories

Attached as a separate document

Annex 6. Takunda Photo Gallery

The photo gallery [at this link](#) (and also as a separate Annex 6) depicts various themes from Takunda Program activities, including resilience designs, the community visioning process, household profiling, supplementary food distributions, and refinement studies including stories, challenges, aspirations, and lessons learned in Buhera, Mutare, Chivi, and Zaka districts.